

ACTION EAP-00

UNCLASSIFIED RELEASED IN PART **K112**
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	CCO-00	CEA-01	CG-00
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	PERC-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	VC-00	FRB-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00
	ITC-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-00	DCP-01
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-00	OES-00	OIC-02	OMB-00	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
	ASDS-00	DTC-00	R-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	/007W		

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O 040845Z DEC 03
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4888
INFO ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USCOMPAC HONOLULU HI
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 007762

DEPT FOR EAP A/S J.KELLY AND DAS M.DALEY
DEPT FOR R J.CURTIN AND A/S P.HARRISON
NSC FOR MORIARTY AND BROOKS
PACOM FOR AMB. HOLZMAN
DEPT PLS PASS TO USTR -- R.IVES, B.WEISEL, E.BRYAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/04/2028
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, ETRD, MASS, KPAO, SCUL, PINR, MY
SUBJECT: MALAYSIA READY TO IMPROVE TIES WITH THE U.S., PM
ABDULLAH TELLS AMBASSADOR

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 7272

Classified By: AMBASSADOR MARIE T. HUHTALA. REASON 1.6 X6.

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2. (U) In the first private meeting by any foreign envoy accredited to KL since Abdullah assumed office on October 31, Ambassador Huhtala, accompanied by DCM, met with the Prime Minister for 30 minutes at the PM's office in Putrajaya on December 4. Tan Sri Abdul Kadir, who is Abdullah's main foreign policy adviser, MFA Under Secretary for the Americas Mohamad Arshad, and PM's special officer Ho May Yong also attended.

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EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES

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10. (U) PM Abdullah -- a former education minister himself -- was especially keen to increase the number of educational exchanges with the U.S. because in his view, young people held the key to better mutual understanding. "Sometimes statements are made that reflect a lack of understanding, a lack of sensitivity," he lamented, referring to the heated rhetoric in recent months. Reviving two-way youth exchanges

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and home stays for Malaysian and American students was one way to start. Once people got to know each other better, much of the rancor would disappear, in Abdullah's view. He

was also going to talk to his education minister about setting up a "vacation program" to ensure that students, particularly student leaders, gained exposure to a broad slice of American society while taking private holidays in the States. (Getting them to "work" while on vacation might be difficult, he conceded.) Abdullah also wondered whether American colleges and universities with large numbers of Malaysian students could find a way to involve them more in student councils and other organizations, perhaps by appointing a quota of foreigners to student governments.

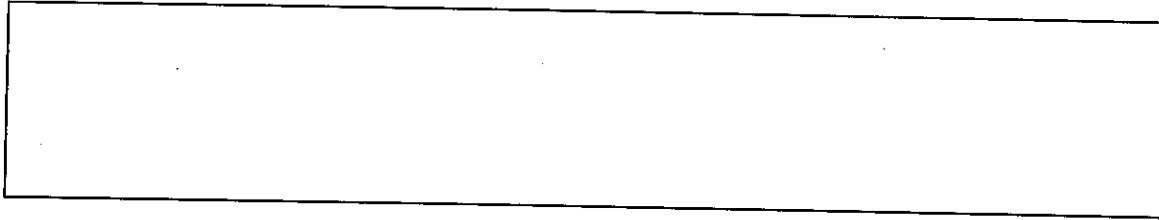
11. (U) The Ambassador promised to look into the PM's proposals while continuing to make every effort to facilitate speedy issuance of visas to Malaysian students going to U.S. schools. "We still welcome Malaysian students," she emphasized. The PM underscored the importance of resolving the visa problems because otherwise he feared parents would send their children to study elsewhere. "We need more contact at that level," Abdullah asserted, in order to help encourage "voices of moderation and caution" and political awareness among Malaysia's student body.

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